MARVEL REMEMBERS

JOHN ROMITA

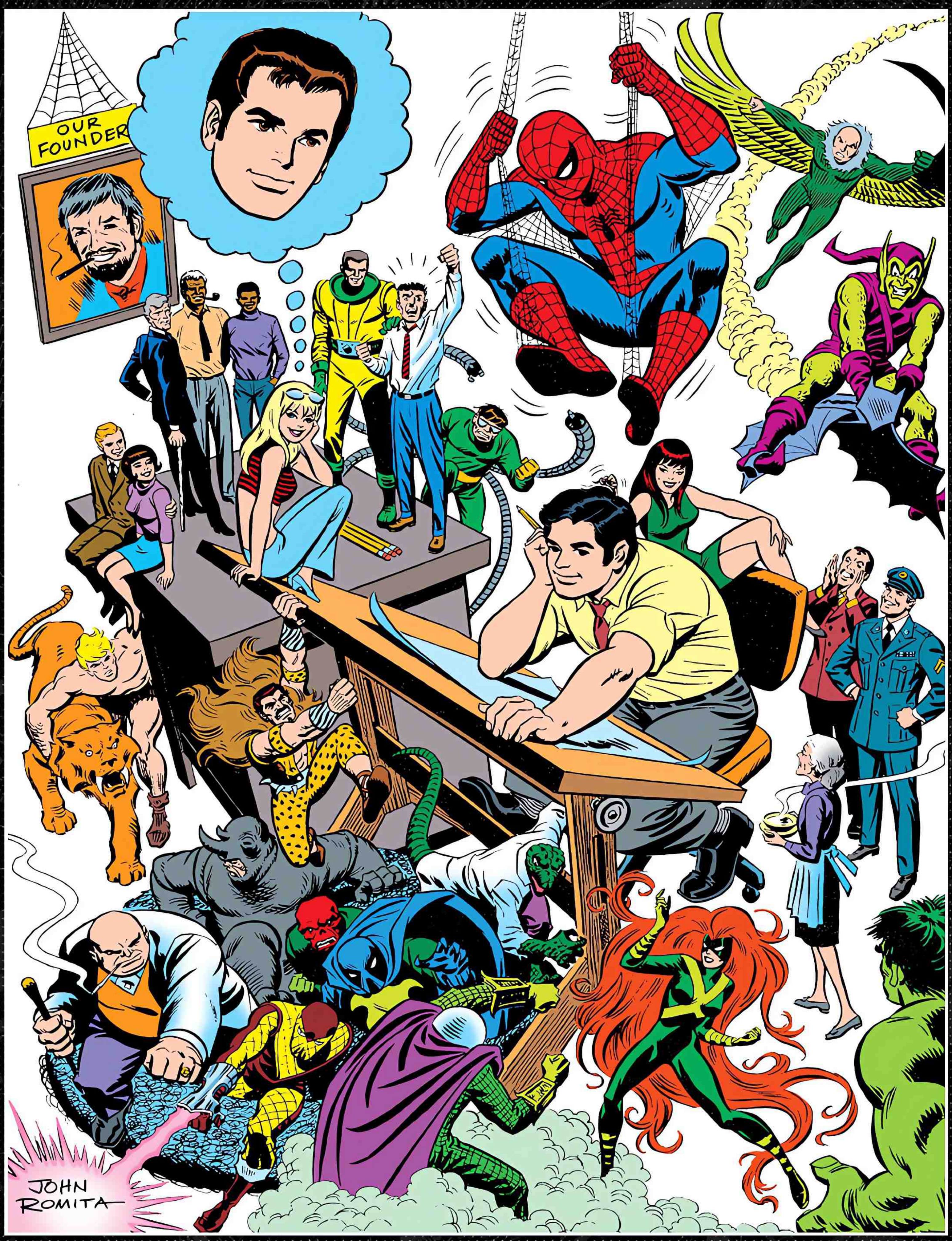
MARVEL 32

LGY#926

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

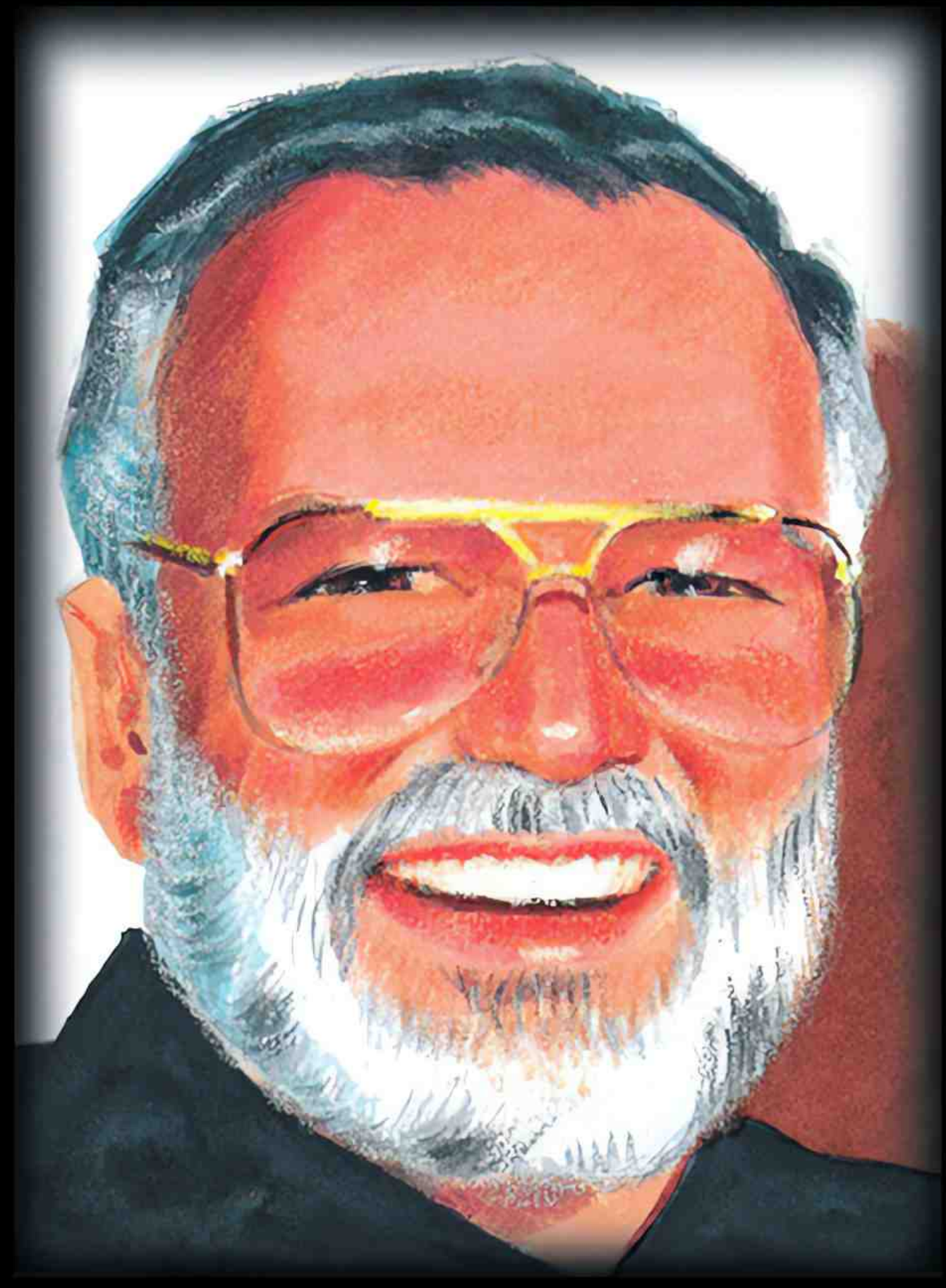
WHO ARE THE G.O.D.S.

ZEB WELLS
PATRICK GLEASON
MARCIO MENYZ



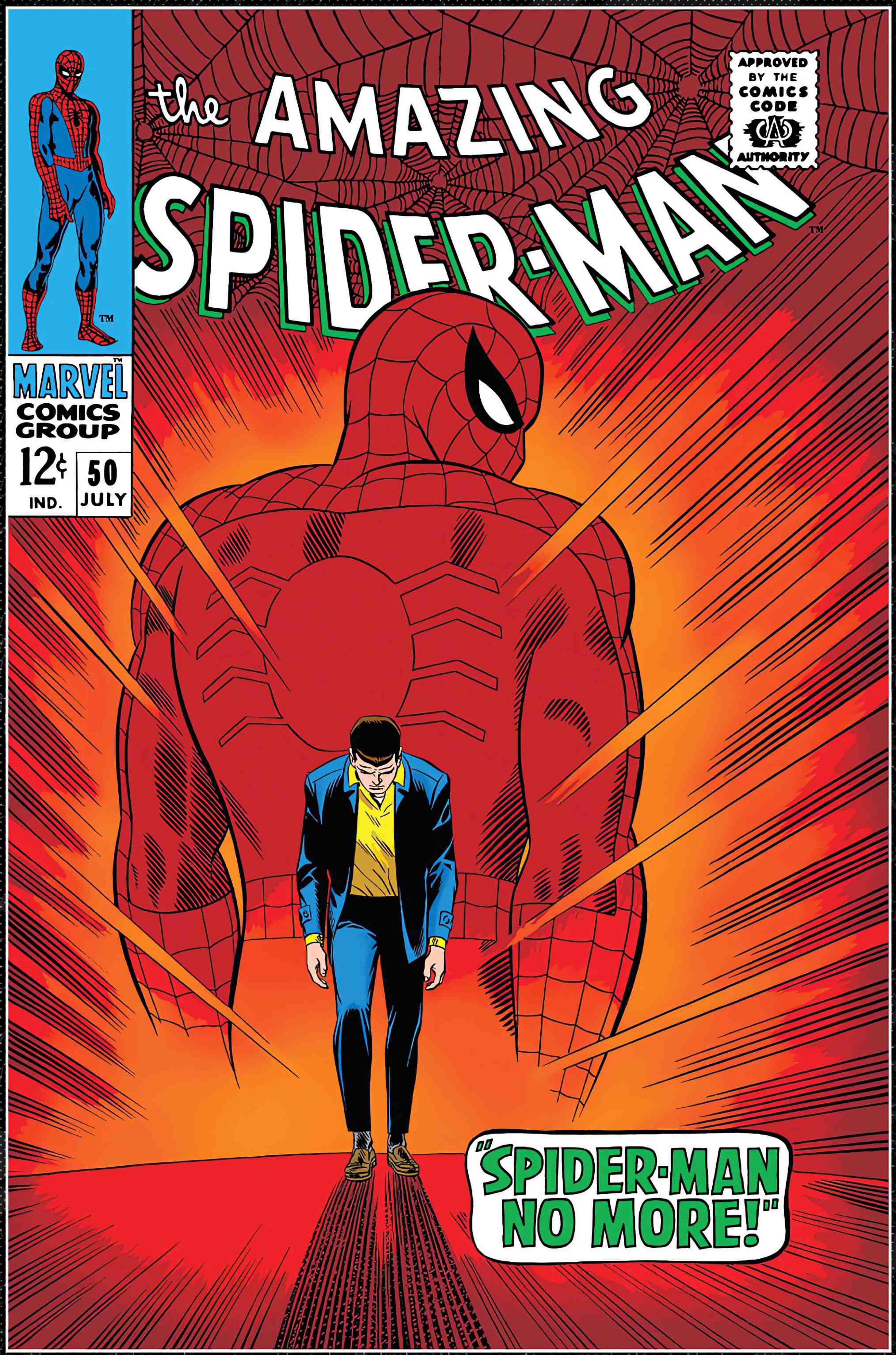
John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual #21*, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.

"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

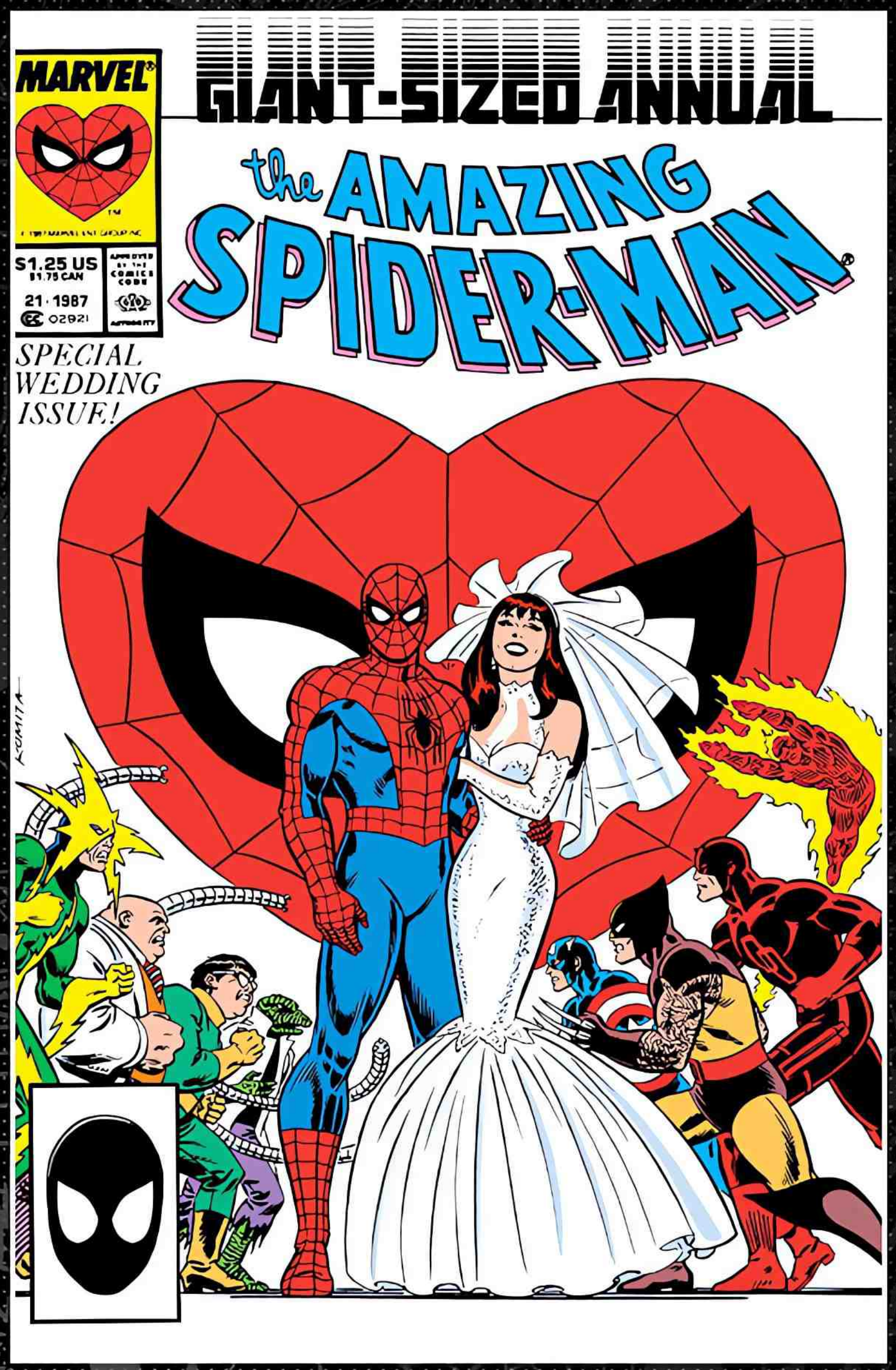
— KEVIN FEIGE

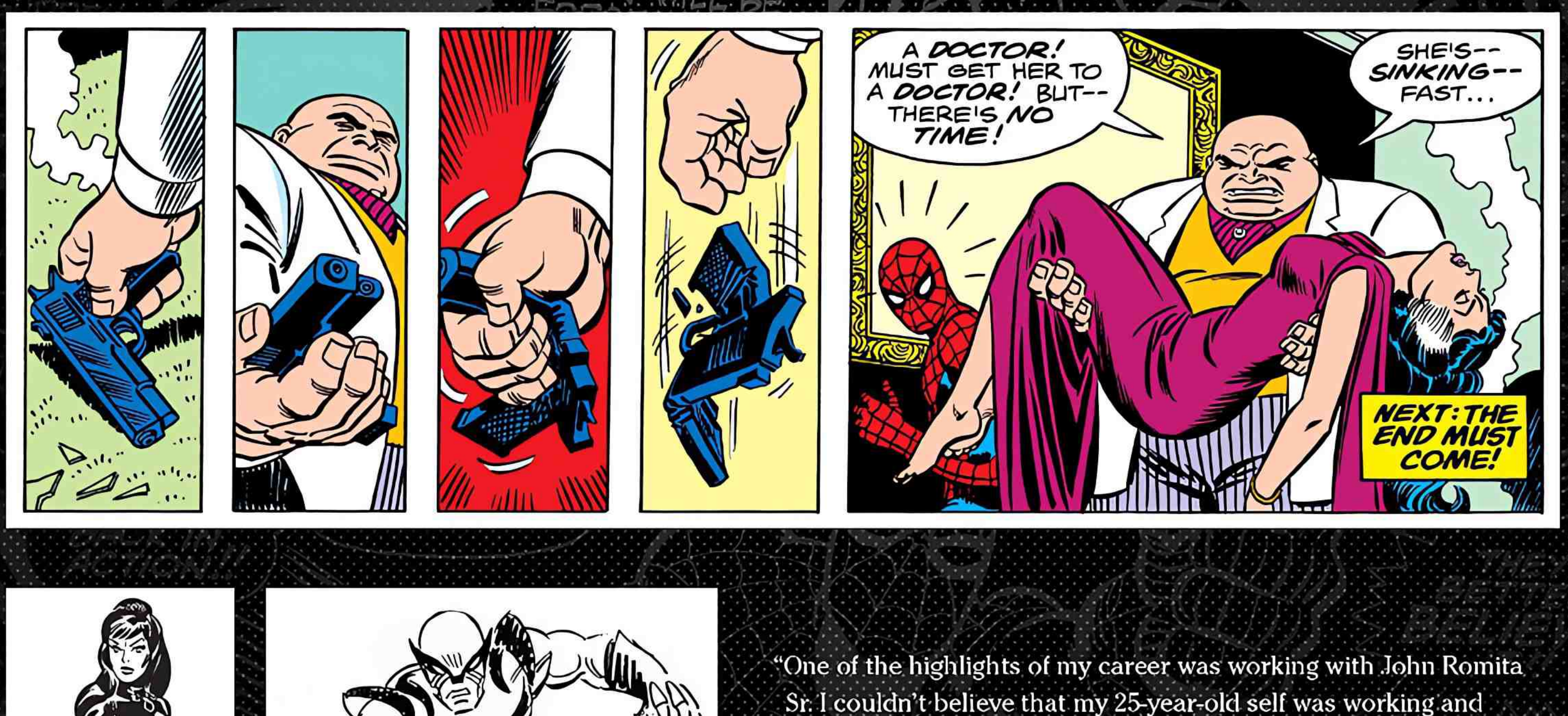
"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

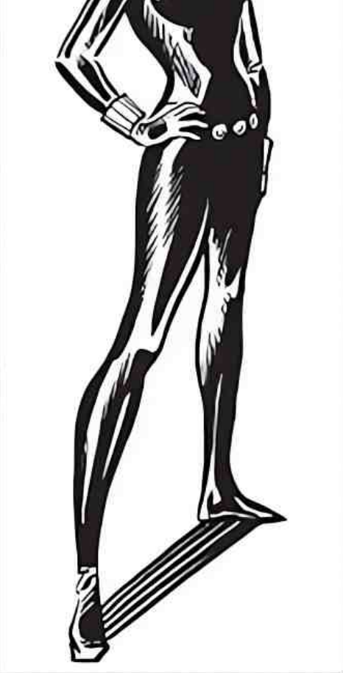
— C.B. CEBULSKI

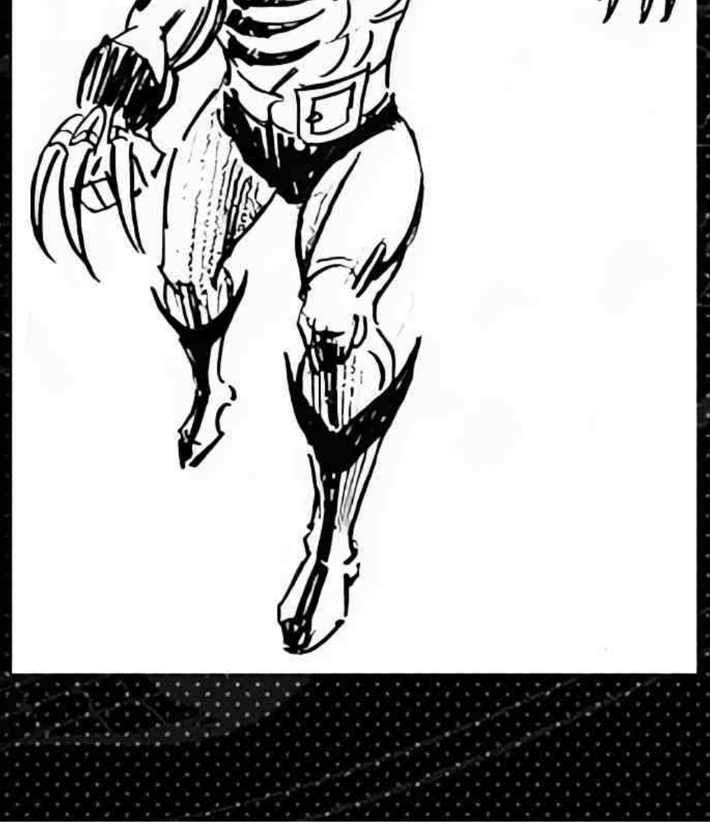
"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man #39*, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, Jazzy John Romita."

— NICK LOWE




A DOCTOR! MUST GET HER TO A DOCTOR! BUT-- THERE'S NO TIME!
SHE'S-- SINKING-- FAST...
NEXT: THE END MUST COME!





"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

There is only her.
The fire in her eyes.
And in the fire...
...everywhere I've ever been.
I follow the flames through *eternity.*
I *hunt* her *essence.*
I travel to the deepest parts of her.
Pierce the darkness hiding there.
It is a sacred thing.
Like *DYING.*

Or being born.
The distinction loses its meaning.
I see her clearly, now. Poisoned by the legacy of a *dangerous man.*
So am I!
She lives to purge herself.
As do I!
Our ceremony, like all ceremonies, had one purpose:
To coax the ***unseen*** into the ***light.***
DID IT WORK?
IT *DID.*

THE GOBLIN'S SINS IMBUE MY SPEAR.
YOU'RE FREE, KAFKA.
I DON'T *FEEL* FREE.
MAYBE I WILL ONCE THEY FIND THEIR WAY HOME.

PETER PARKER **HAS THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A *SPIDER*, ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES, AND THE UNIQUE PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED *"SPIDER-SENSE"!* AFTER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS UNCLE BEN, PETER PARKER UNDERSTOOD THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. HE BECAME THE CRIMEFIGHTING SUPER HERO CALLED...**

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

NORMAN OSBORN has been set upon a righteous path. When the Sin-Eater removed Norman's sins from him, he abandoned the moniker of the GREEN GOBLIN to rebuild Oscorp and try his hand at super-heroics, now dubbed the GOLD GOBLIN by the public. But Green Goblin's evils didn't just vanish from the world. The Beyond Corporation got their hands on the concentrated physical manifestation of Norman's sins and injected them into therapist ASHLEY KAFKA, transforming her into QUEEN GOBLIN.

Blaming him for her metamorphosis, Queen Goblin set out on a mission to systematically destroy Norman. In a final confrontation, Gold Goblin was forced to kill Queen Goblin to save Spider-Man's life. But Peter and Norman are about to be reminded--goblins don't stay dead for long.

ZEB WELLS
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PATRICK GLEASON
ARTIST

MARCIO MENYZ
COLOR ARTIST

VC's JOE CARAMAGNA
LETTERER

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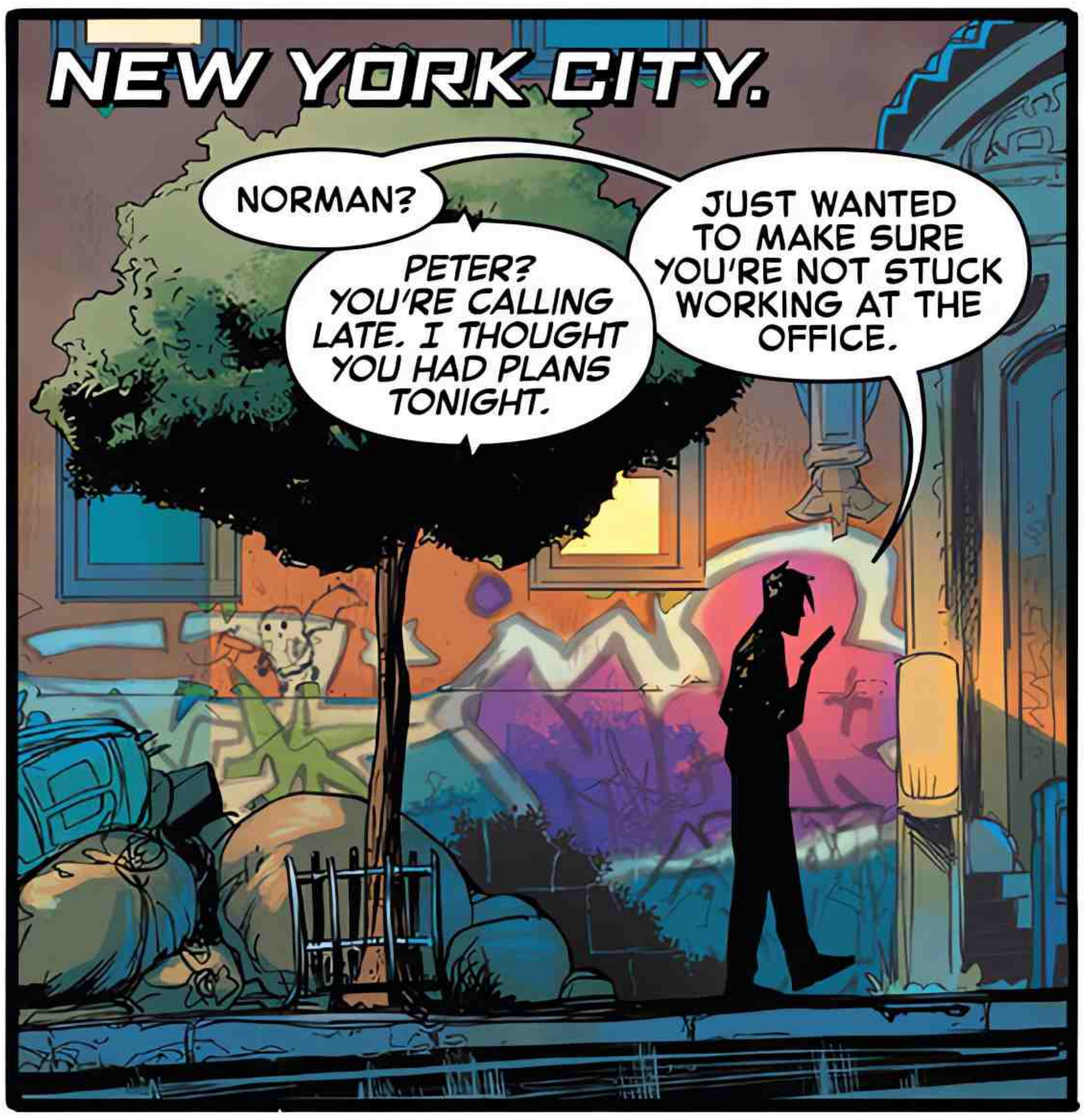
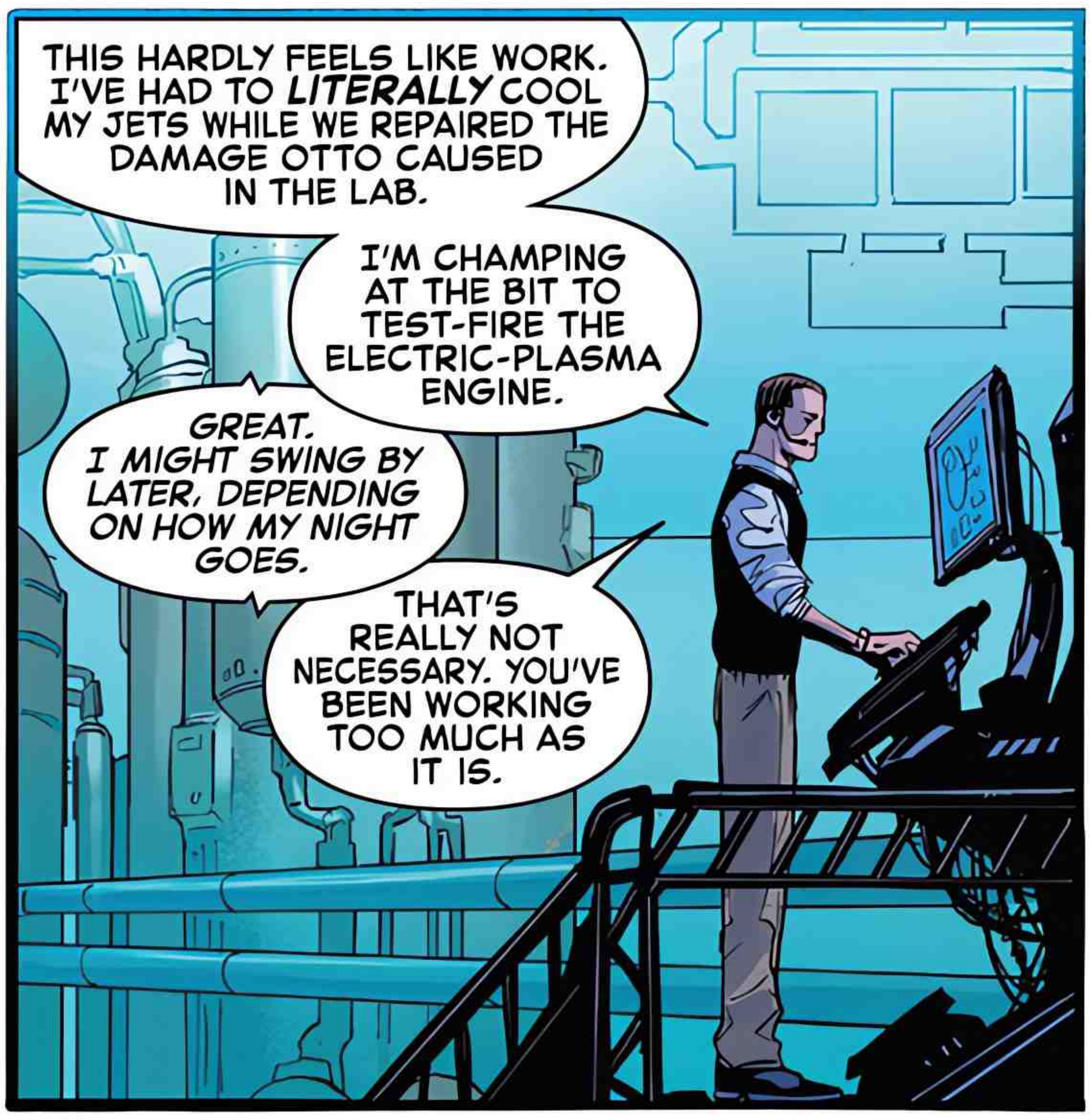
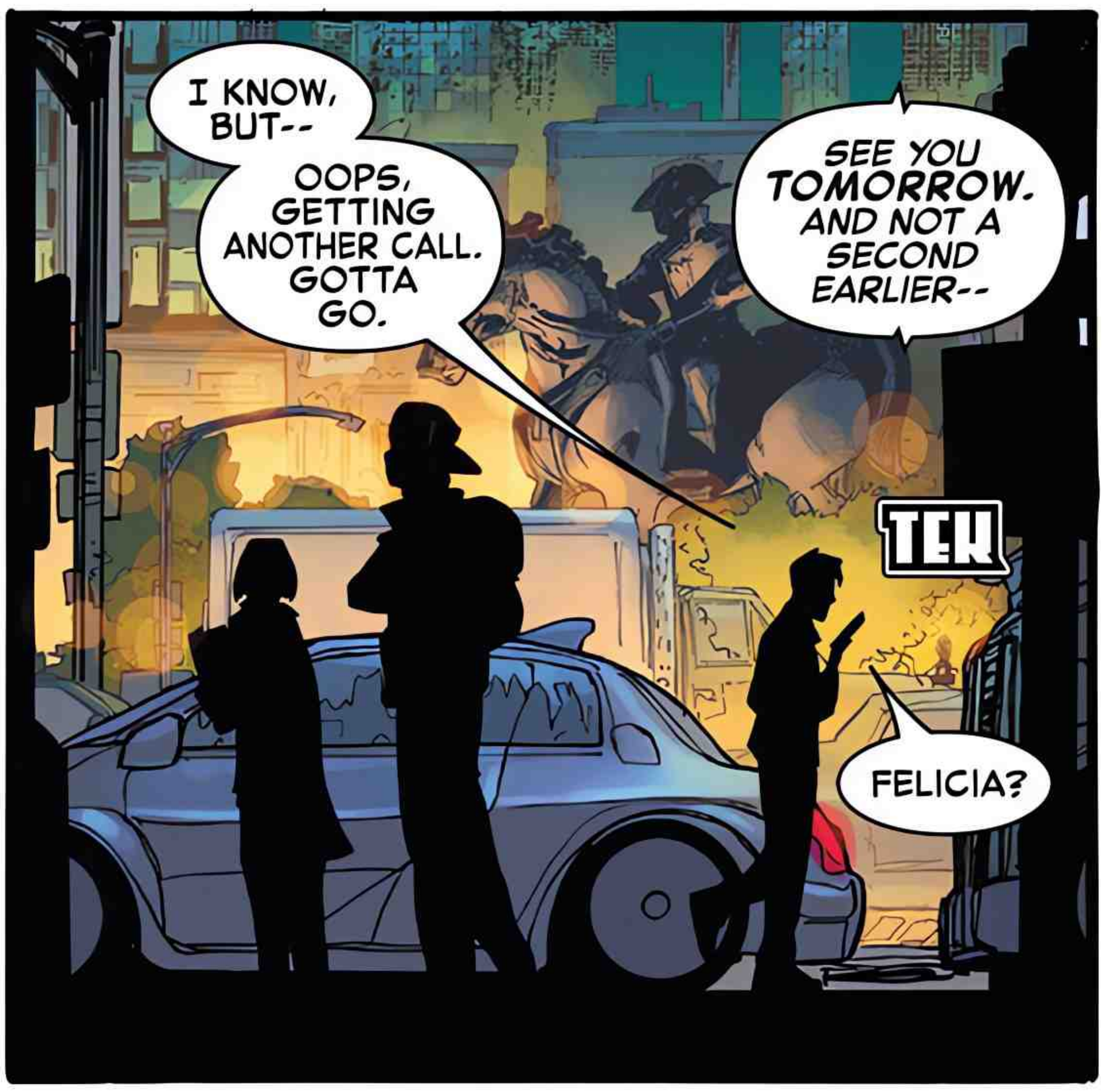
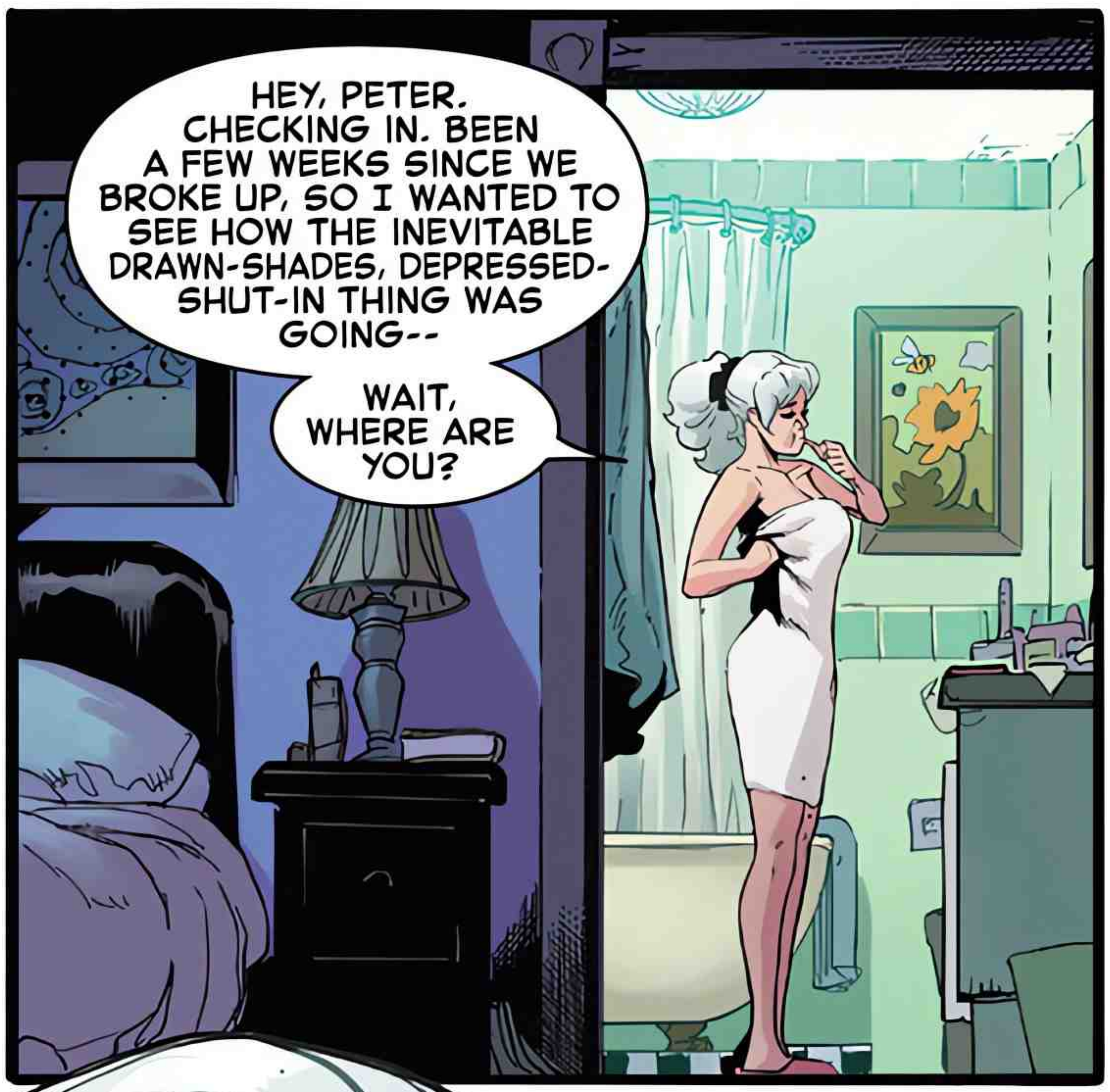
C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

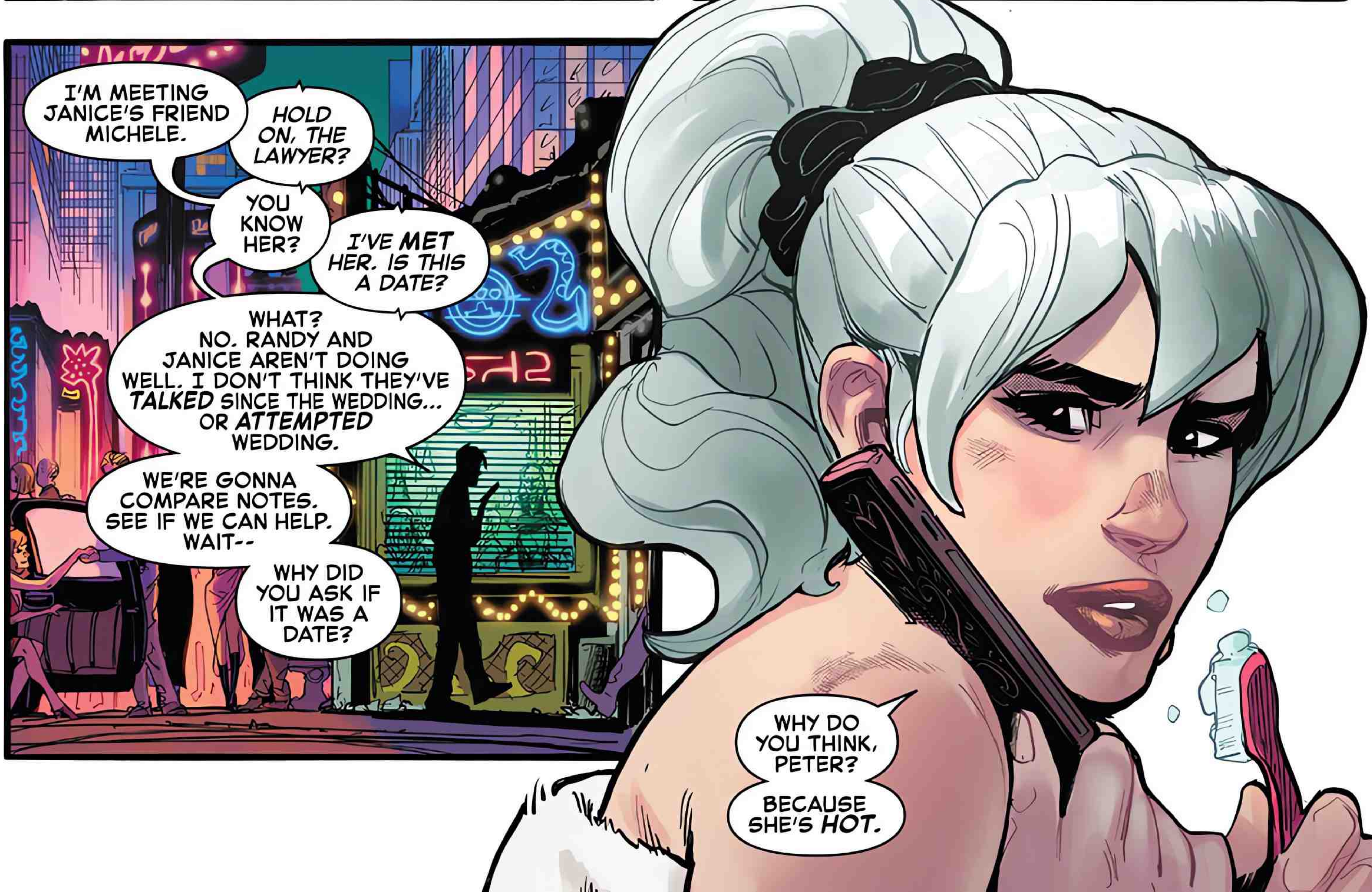
SPIDER-MAN CREATED BY
STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO


NEW YORK CITY.
NORMAN?
PETER? YOU'RE CALLING LATE. I THOUGHT YOU HAD PLANS TONIGHT.
JUST WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT STUCK WORKING AT THE OFFICE.


THIS HARDLY FEELS LIKE WORK. I'VE HAD TO *LITERALLY* COOL MY JETS WHILE WE REPAIRED THE DAMAGE OTTO CAUSED IN THE LAB.
I'M CHAMPING AT THE BIT TO TEST-FIRE THE ELECTRIC-PLASMA ENGINE.
GREAT. I MIGHT SWING BY LATER, DEPENDING ON HOW MY NIGHT GOES.
THAT'S REALLY NOT NECESSARY. YOU'VE BEEN WORKING TOO MUCH AS IT IS.


I KNOW, BUT--
OOPS, GETTING ANOTHER CALL. GOTTA GO.
SEE YOU **TOMORROW.** AND NOT A SECOND EARLIER--
TEK
FELICIA?


HEY, PETER. CHECKING IN. BEEN A FEW WEEKS SINCE WE BROKE UP, SO I WANTED TO SEE HOW THE INEVITABLE DRAWN-SHADES, DEPRESSED-SHUT-IN THING WAS GOING--
WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU?


I'M MEETING JANICE'S FRIEND MICHELE.
HOLD ON, THE LAWYER?
YOU KNOW HER?
I'VE **MET** HER. IS THIS A DATE?
WHAT? NO. RANDY AND JANICE AREN'T DOING WELL. I DON'T THINK THEY'VE **TALKED** SINCE THE WEDDING... OR **ATTEMPTED** WEDDING.
WE'RE GONNA COMPARE NOTES. SEE IF WE CAN HELP. WAIT--
WHY DID YOU ASK IF IT WAS A DATE?
WHY DO YOU THINK, PETER?
BECAUSE SHE'S **HOT.**

IT'S EIGHT-FIFTEEN.
IS THIS A THING FOR YOU, PETER PARKER?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BEING LATE.
Uhhhhh...
THAT'S A "YES."
NO, WAIT. GIMME A DO-OVER.
I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING LATE, AND IT WILL NEVER, ***EVER*** HAPPEN AGAIN.
WHAT SAY WE ORDER?!

LATER.
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE SUGGESTING JANICE REACH OUT FIRST...
...RANDY SPED OFF WITHOUT EVEN ASKING WHICH HOSPITAL HIS *BRIDE'S INJURED FATHER* WAS BEING TAKEN TO.
HE *SPED OFF* WITH HIS *PARENTS.* I THINK HE WANTED TO GET THEM SOMEWHERE WITH *LESS BULLETS.*
AND THEN CUT OFF ALL CONTACT WITH HER?
HE TRIED TO CALL...
ONE TIME?! HE SHOULD BE KNOCKING DOWN HER DOOR.
HE'S PROCESSING A *LOT.* THAT WEDDING WAS A BIG, *BIG* REMINDER OF WHAT HE WAS MARRYING INTO.
COME ON. EVERY FAMILY HAS THEIR PROBLEMS.
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE A FULL PICTURE OF WHAT JANICE'S DAD IS INTO.
Hmmm. I BET I DO.
NO, JANICE'S DAD IS A SCARY GUY. HE'S GOT A LOT OF... *EXTRALEGAL* STUFF GOING ON.
OH, I'M *AWARE.*
YOU ARE?
HOW?

I'M MR. LINCOLN'S LAWYER.
PFFFTTTT!
YOU'RE *TOMBSTONE'S* LAWYER?!
NO. I'M *LONNIE LINCOLN'S* LAWYER.
WHY ARE YOU ACTING SO SURPRISED?! I TOLD YOU I MET JANICE IN LAW SCHOOL.
I THOUGHT THAT MEANT YOU *LOVED LAWS.* THAT YOU WERE A *LAW LOVER!*
I AM.
AND I BELIEVE THESE LAWS WERE DESIGNED TO PROTECT *EVERYONE.*
EVEN *SUPER VILLAINS* LIKE TOMBSTONE?!
YES. *OF COURSE--*
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE A *PUNISHER* GUY. IS THAT IT? YOU THINK FRANK CASTLE IS A HERO.
I, OF ALL PEOPLE, KNOW THE PUNISHER IS A *VILLAIN!* JUST LIKE *TOMBSTONE...*
...YOUR CLIENT!
DESSERT?
NO!

All his life, my father kept his casket close.
Hunting a death worthy of him.
Running to it!
I will not follow him.
But the casket!
Why do I keep it?!
YOUR FATHER WAS A *SELFISH MAN.*
THERE IS ONLY ONE *HUNT* THAT CAN MAKE YOU WHOLE. AND HE TOOK IT FOR HIMSELF.
BUT I'VE BROUGHT YOU A WAY TO PROVE YOURSELF HIS *BETTER.*
YOUR FATHER BECAME THE *SPIDER.* BESTED THE SPIDER'S ENEMY TO PROVE HIS WORTH.
BUT HIS *PREY* WAS *WEAK.* A PATHETIC *RAT.*

YOU WILL BEST THE SPIDER'S *GREATEST* FOE.
BUT FIRST, YOU MUST ***RESTORE*** HIM. ***RESTORE*** HIS SINS.
AND THEN KILL HIM... ***FREEING*** ME. AND IN DOING SO, FREEING YOURSELF.
GO, KRAVEN. ***HUNT.***

I KNEW YOU'D COME.
AND *I* KNEW YOU'D STILL BE HERE.
PETER, I TOLD YOU I HAD THINGS IN HAND. IT'S LATE--
YEAH, BUT MY NIGHT WENT SIDEWAYS, AND HEY-- I'VE WORKED ON THIS THING FOR MONTHS...
I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU DO THE FUN STUFF WITHOUT ME.
PETER.
WHAT? I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NEED SOME COMPANY.
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T.
I KNOW, BUT THE LAST FEW WEEKS HAVE BEEN *ROUGH.* NO NEED FOR YOU TO BE ALONE.
PETER.
YOU CAN'T KEEP DOING THIS.
WHAT?

SPENDING EVERY FREE SECOND WITH ME. SCANNING MY FACE FOR SIGNS OF MADNESS.
I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE OKAY.
I KNOW THAT. ONE OF THE JOYS OF THESE PAST MONTHS HAS BEEN GETTING TO KNOW YOU BETTER.
I HIRED YOU TO KEEP ME HONEST... BUT I DIDN'T APPRECIATE HOW COMPLETELY YOU'D TAKE ON THAT BURDEN.
I FEAR I'VE ASKED TOO MUCH OF YOU.
NO. NOT TOO MUCH. I...I WOULD NEVER WANT YOU TO--
YOU KNOW...
BECOME THE MAN WHO KILLED GWEN.

HEY. IT'S NOT JUST THAT.
THE MORE I WORK WITH YOU, THE MORE I RECOGNIZE SOMETHING *FAMILIAR.* THE NORMAN OSBORN I FIRST MET. THE ONE WHO TREATED ME LIKE A **SON.**
I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THAT MIGHT BE THE ***REAL*** YOU.
THE MAN WHO GOT BURIED UNDER ALL THAT... ***OTHER STUFF.***
PETER, THAT MEANS MORE THAN YOU--
SHUNK
POWER LOSS?
BUT I ADDED TRIPLE REDUNDANCY AFTER OTTO'S ATTACK.
WHICH MEANS IF THE SYSTEM WENT DOWN...
IT'S ***BAD.***
SUITS?
SUITS.
I NEED A ***GOLD TEAM*** TO THE ***READY ROOM--*** HELLO?
#$%&!
I'LL DO IT MYSELF.

WHAT IN GOD'S NAME...?
YOU BETRAY YOUR GLORY WITH THESE *RAGS*, GOBLIN.
NUMB YOUR *SPIRIT*.
I AM HERE TO ENLIVEN YOU.
I WILL MAKE YOU *WHOLE*.

NORMAN! I'VE GOT INJURED SECURITY!
WE'RE *BREACHED.*
NORMAN?
NORMAN?!
THIS IS *YOUR* DESTINY, NOT HIS.
DON'T MAKE HIM PAY FOR YOUR SINS.
KRAVEN?!
THAT SPEAR...IS THAT--?
OH GOD--
I'M SORRY.
I *TRIED.*
TEK
SHUNK
NORMAN!
NORMAN!!!

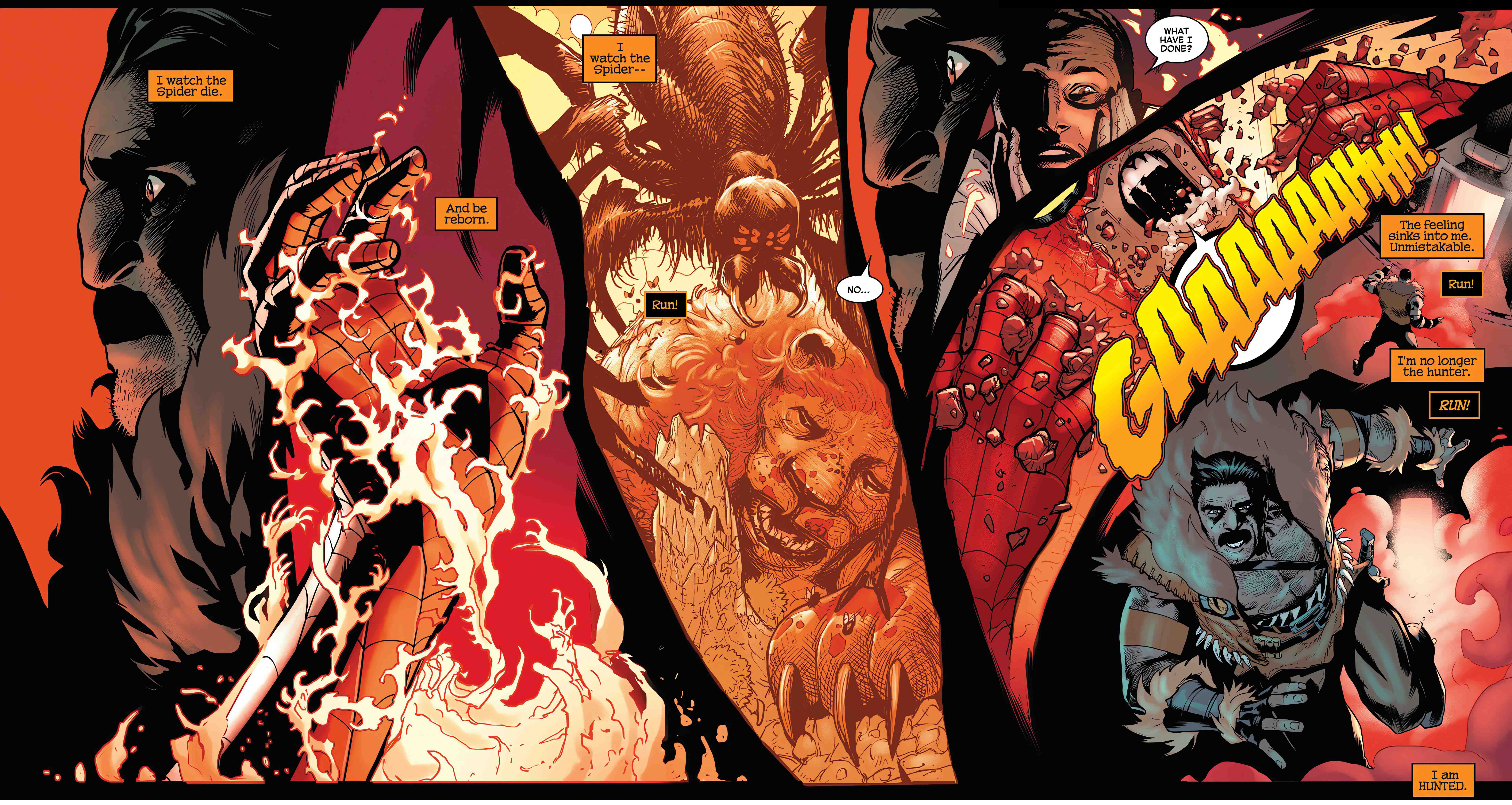
I RESPECT A MAN WHO RECOGNIZES *FATE.*
WHO KNOWS IT CAN'T BE *STOPPED.*
MAYBE...

...BUT I'LL BE *DAMNED* IF I DON'T TRY!
KRAK
THE *GOBLIN* STIRS.
LET HIM OUT!
SO I MAY *BEST* HIM.
YOU ARE A KING, GOBLIN! ACCEPT YOUR CROWN!
ACCEPT--
WUP WUP WUP WUP
Huh--
WUP WUP

WUP WUP WUP
CRASH
THAT'S IT FOR THE PLASMA-ENGINE PROJECT.
BUT I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO THINK.

EXTINGUISHERS ACTIVATED. CAN'T SEE A THING.
BUT MY SPIDEY-SENSE IS TELLING ME THERE'S DANGER.
I'VE GOTTA FIGHT MY INSTINCTS.
GO TOWARD IT.
FIND NORMAN.
BEFORE--

NO!
THUNK
MY GOD, WHAT DID YOU DO?!
GAH-- GAK!


I watch the Spider die.
And be reborn.
I watch the Spider--
Run!
NO...
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
GAAAAAHHH!
The feeling sinks into me. Unmistakable.
Run!
I'm no longer the hunter.
RUN!
I am HUNTED.

HAHAHA
HAHA
HA
HA HA
HA
HAHA
HA
HAHA
TO BE CONTINUED!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

UH-OH, WEB-HEADS!

The sins of Norman Osborn are now in Peter Parker! That CAN'T be good. How about that Patrick Gleason? Zeb and I were so pumped to get him back on this book for another arc, and this matched up perfectly! This book goes to some NUTTY places, and I'm pumped to have you all along for the ride!

Buckle up, this is a pretty long page. LOTS to talk about.

Between issues of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, the Spider-family lost one of its single most important members. John Romita Sr. passed away on June 12, 2023. You all saw the first pages of this issue, which are running in most Marvel books this month, but as this is the book that John built, I wanted to take a moment to appreciate one of the faces on the Spider-Creator Mount Rushmore. John may not have created Spider-Man, but his version of Spidey may very well be the archetype. We talk about some of his accomplishments in the first pages of this issue, so I won't repeat those. But I will repeat that every story I hear about John drives home what a wonderful person he was. Just today, somewhat out of the blue, Production Manager Sue Crespi (SUE!) sent me a message about John. "John was the art director when I first started at Marvel, and he was one of the nicest people that I've ever worked with." One of the many ways I'm lucky to have the job I have is that I get to work with John Romita Jr. Not only does Johnny tell great stories about his dad, but the man John Jr. grew up to be is a living testament to the man his father was. We are a lucky medium to have had John Romita Sr. grace us with his talents and time. Here's to you, Sir!

Moving on! As I write this, FALLEN FRIEND: THE DEATH OF MS. MARVEL has just come out, HELLFIRE GALA 2023 comes out in a couple weeks, and we're about to announce the new MS. MARVEL: THE NEW MUTANT comic co-written by Ms. Marvel herself IMAN VELLANI and Disney+ *Ms. Marvel* writer SABIR PIRZADA with art by ASM alum CARLOS GÓMEZ! With that announcement, the whole Ms. Marvel plan is finally revealing itself. We are so excited to read the new book with the rest of you and show more of Ms. Marvel's new place in the Marvel Universe! You haven't seen the last of Kamala Khan here in ASM either!

Anyway, it's been a while since we've run letters! We've been super busy over here in the Spider-Office, but we've missed all you beautiful people, so take it away!

Dear Spider-Office,

This is my first time writing in, and it's only because I feel like I have a lot to say, but you probably have many other letters to get through, so I'll try to keep it brief.

First, I want to try to be the level-headed person in the room since the response to issue #26 will likely be a cacophony of anger and hate (though I feel like that was mostly on social media). Second, I have really enjoyed this run, and I love what you guys are doing with Spidey. It hasn't necessarily been my favorite, but Zeb has made a lot of interesting choices that I really liked. Third, and finally, I wanted to say that despite how good this run was, I feel that killing Ms. Marvel in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN was a poor choice or, at the very least, a strange one.

This is because she didn't have that big of a role in the story, and it also feels very cheap and tasteless since she does not have her own book at the moment. I think it would have made more sense to kill her in an event storyline of some kind where she had a bigger part to play. It is also made more cheap by the fact that I know that she is coming back since she will be in *The Marvels* this fall, and ironically enough, Zeb was one of the writers on that too.

I'm going to keep reading this run, since I can't deny that I like it, but I also can't deny that I am disappointed. Definitely not as upset as some of the other folks reading this, but I do feel like this is a shame, since I felt that this run was going so well. Hopefully, we can get a fresh start with the next story arc.

Regardless, thank you for all the Spider-Man comics, and I look forward to the next year of ASM.

Mack Schmitz
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Thanks for writing in, Mack! We definitely got some angry and less level-headed (and unprintable) letters and plenty of hate online. But, as you'll see, we also got a lot of people writing in whom the story touched. As for whether it was "cheap" or not... We've been dealing with the fallout in the issues since, which speak for themselves character- and story-wise, but I'll give a peek behind the curtain for some of the more meta elements. As we were planning out Kamala's story, the opportunity to take advantage of Krakoan rebirth presented itself. We wanted to make sure that we put the biggest spotlight on Kamala's journey that we could, which is ASM. We had already brought Kamala into the series by then, so it seemed perfect. I still stand by the story in ASM #26. Kamala is a super hero. She showed up to a giant super-villain fight and got involved, which is what a hero does. She risked everything to save a life, which is what a hero does. It cost Kamala her life. Was she the central focus of the book or the story? Nope. But honestly, to me, that's also life. Things happen that don't go the way stories "should" go. But what Kamala did was completely in character on the biggest stage in comics, getting more people talking about her than had in years.

Anyway, thanks for reading, Mack, and I hope you like what the next year brings!

Hey, Spidey-Office!

I'm a relative latecomer to comics--I'm 29 now and only got into comics during COVID lockdowns by reading on Marvel Unlimited.

I caught up with Spider-Man from Nick Spencer's run onward pretty quickly, read all of ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN in a flash and went back to read some of the real classics as well.

This most recent arc has really paid off my relatively new interest in comics. I've set up a pull list at a local shop (Mega City Comics in Camden, which I can't recommend enough), and I'm entering my Wednesday-warrior era. I finished work early just to go and pick up ASM #26 as I had to know what happened, and I have to say, I'm incredibly satisfied with it.

Keep up the good work and, more importantly, the thwippin'.

Simon Birch
London, UK

Thanks for writing, Simon! Really glad you're loving the book, and a big shout-out to Mega City Comics!!!

Dear Spider-Office,

First off, I think you pulled off a small miracle with ASM #26, actually wrapping up all the loose ends from Wells' year-long mystery here. Quite frankly, I was more than a little skeptical on whether or not you could deliver a satisfying conclusion with so much still up in the air. But somehow, you made it work, and it all felt inevitable and surprising at the same time...which is always the goal, right? Great job!

Second, I feel it's important to say what a shame it is that Kamala's death got leaked several weeks before the issue arrived in shops. It's frustrating enough that this surprising bait-and-switch moment with MJ and Kamala was robbed from the readers...but to work so hard at crafting this and the moment not being allowed to land the way it was intended has gotta be even more disappointing for the creative team. So, sorry to everyone for that--unfortunate that someone decided to mess the reveal up for everyone else.

I'm not entirely sold on the need for Kamala to die in this issue yet, felt very out of left field and not part of the story that was being told, but I'm more than willing to give this team the benefit of the doubt that this will ultimately lead to something interesting not just for Kamala ('cus she'll be back, let's be real, haha), but for Zeb Wells' year-two vision overall. Here's to another year (or two?) with this awesome creative team!

Taylor Murphy
Kansas City, MO

Thanks for writing in, Taylor! Glad you're enjoying it as well! The earlier-than-usual leak was definitely frustrating. Hope the fallout from #26 helped your enjoyment, Taylor!

I just put down issue #26, and all I could do is pick my jaw up off the floor and reread it again! I think the biggest praise I can offer is that, as a die-hard Peter/MJ fan, I still tremendously enjoyed this issue and arc as a whole. I was on the edge of my seat as the intensity kept building up page after page! Seeing Peter unleash months of pent-up frustration on Rabin was so satisfying, and kudos to JRJR for really selling those moments in his artwork. Finally, while I'll always root for Peter and MJ as a couple, I'm hopeful that Wells has some meaningful stories to mine from pairing him with Felicia that will further develop both of these amazing characters.

Jonathan Creasman
Raleigh, North Carolina

Glad it worked for you, Jonathan. Felicia and Peter may have broken up, but who knows what could happen next!

Hey, hey, Spider-Team!

You guys published my email back in issue #5 where I had tossed out a theory on what the whole situation was with Mary Jane's children and said I'd hang tight to see if my prediction was correct. I thought I'd touch base to give you my thoughts now that the truth is out. 2022 me had a keen eye and noticed all the references to Gerry Conway/Sal Buscema's run of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN in the Tombstone story arc. So when I saw that MJ was caring for children--with one having a striking resemblance to her--I thought that there might be a connection to another storyline from that era. I was talking about Mary Jane's long-lost cousin, Kristy, who was living with Peter and MJ in those days because of family troubles. We haven't seen much of Kristy since the '90s. She popped up briefly in that AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: GOING BIG one-shot in 2019, but other than that, a whole lot of nothing. I thought that maybe these kids were Kristy's, and MJ was raising them for some reason that wasn't immediately obvious.

However, leave it to the House of Ideas to throw a curveball and throw something out of left field--was not expecting these kids to come from another dimension.

Look, I don't try to get hung up on details too much (like a certain contingent of fans who harp on about a certain controversial storyline that happened seventeen years ago--ahem) but if this is the absolute end of the whole "MJ has kids" thing, it feels kind of like a cop-out, kind of like when MJ got pregnant during the Clone Saga. This is the third time MJ has had a family dangled in front of her and torn away over the years, and it seems kind of cruel at this point. Probably not the intent, but seriously, this girl can't catch a break.

Anyway, that aside, I remain a devoted reader of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. As a 30+-year reader, I love the stories of the downtrodden web-slinger, warts and all. What I'm saying is I'll get over it and look forward to what you're doing next.

Thanks again.

Nick Peron

PS: Oh no, Ms. Marvel dead? How long is that going to last? *Circles November 10, 2023, on the calendar.*

Kristy Watson represent! I have a soft spot in my heart for Kristy, but she didn't seem like the right fit here. :) As you've seen in the issues since, MJ's story is far from done. In fact, as we showed in ASM #31, it's taking a big step forward with Mary Jane trying out some super-heroics firsthand. She got Spider-Powers in SPIDER-ISLAND, she donned the IRON-SPIDER suit with Dan Slott and Giuseppe Camuncoli, now it's time for her to have her own super-identity as JACKPOT? You'll be seeing her more in ASM as well as... Well, I can't announce that just yet.

Hi, Team!

A couple of years ago, I decided to read every Spider-title on Marvel Unlimited (everything from AMAZING FANTASY forward, including all spin-offs, like my now-favorite book--SPIDER-GIRL starring "Mayday").

Needless to say, this gave me quite the insight into how Peter Parker's character has existed over the decades, depending on who is writing him. I think a lot of fans love his sense of responsibility, not just to saving the day, but to his family and friends (and wife(?)--I say hopefully). He might get things wrong sometimes, but he's always trying his best to juggle being a hero, getting paid, and showing his loved ones he cares.

My question is--how do you see your interpretation of Peter Parker through that lens? To my eyes, he seems to have forgotten his love/responsibility for his mentees--the younger spider-heroes who took up his mantle--as well as his general responsibility to himself to be happy and try to have a good life (maybe with his wife, MJ? I once again plead).

Anyway, would love to hear how you interpret Peter's defining motivations and sense of responsibility!

Alice
Nottingham, United Kingdom

Thanks for writing in, Alice! That is quite an undertaking!!! I applaud you for taking on and finishing that quest! Responsibility is definitely Peter's core ethos. I see that as Peter sacrificing everything for the sake of using his power (mundane and extraordinary) to help people. Whether that is through stopping super villains or just helping people with whatever, he makes time. Sort of like the stories you hear of Mr. Rogers driving his family and co-workers insane when he would stop to talk to everyone he'd meet. As to what lens we see him exercise that responsibility and who he shows it through, it depends on the book and creators and such. And I think that Peter's life (like everyone's) is very full and busy. ASM is just one piece of that life. There is plenty of his life that we see in other books like SPIDER-MAN. We may not see him with his mentees all that often in ASM, but that's partially because a bunch of them have their own books for people to go and enjoy. Peter shows up in MILES MORALES: SPIDER-MAN sometimes, they are in different stories together, etc.... We saw Kamala Khan in this book, via her internship at Oscorp and Pete's job there. WHO KNOWS what other Spidey books are down the pike that might show more varied parts of his life?!

ASM #28! What an ending!

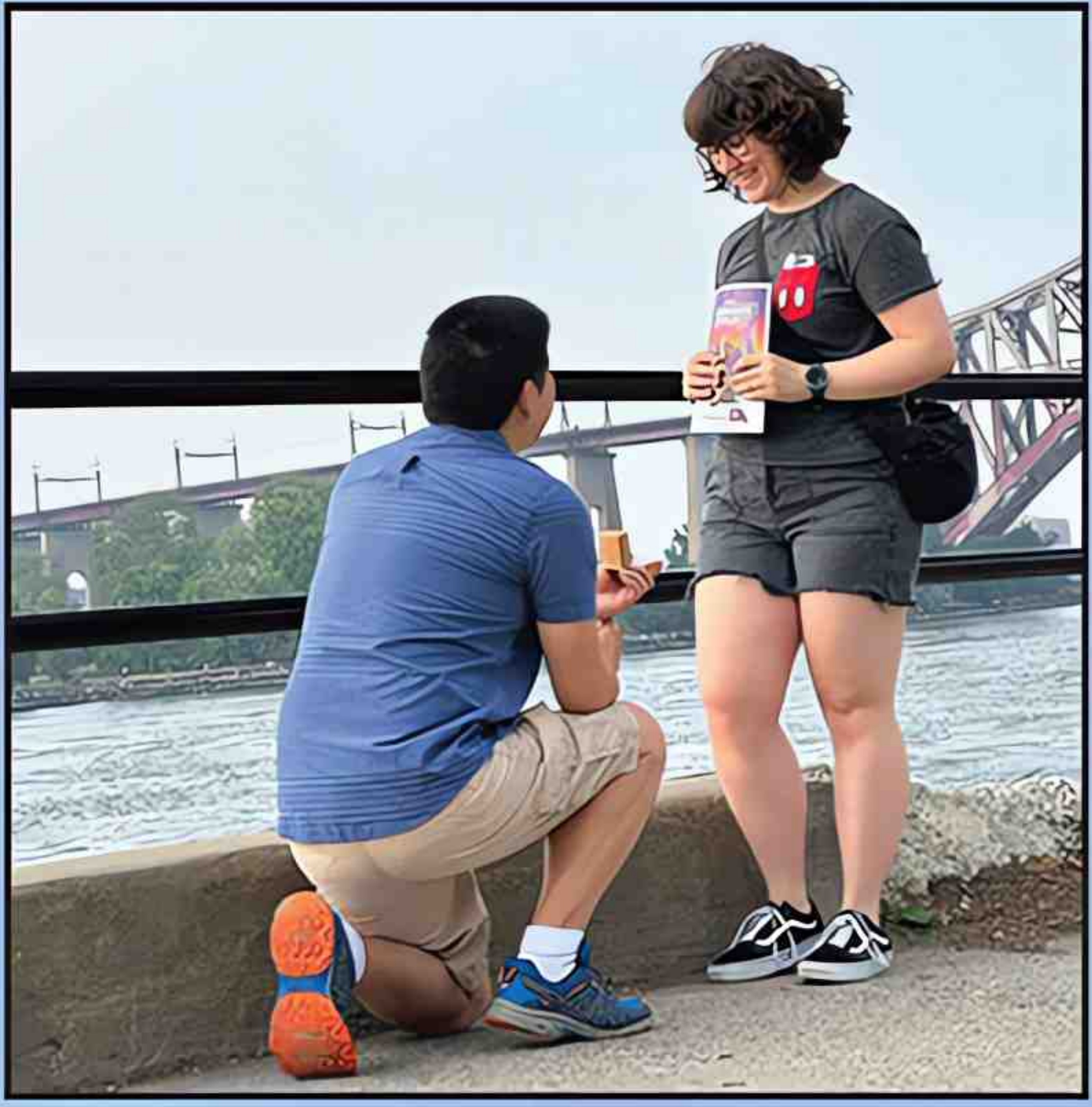
When I was walking around my neighborhood, I saw a huge line outside our LCS and given what happened in #26, I assumed it was for the latest issue (Ms. Marvel is/was my favorite character, btw. I ran my first 10k dressed as her!). My partner, Derek, had already read the story and said the ending was CRAZY.

Later that afternoon, Derek and I took a walk around our local park and when I wasn't looking, he pulled out a copy of ASM #28 and handed it to me. He asked me to turn to the last page, which I did--and it was an ad for the next Spider-Man issue LOL. Derek then told me to turn back one page to the Spider-Mail section.

Imagine my surprise when I saw a picture of me and Derek! He had me read the letter out loud, which I did, and when I looked up from the issue, Derek was on one knee with the ring in his hands and asked to spend the rest of our lives together! Of course, I said yes.🙂

I wanted to thank you and the whole Spider-team for making our engagement so special. It's so cool to think that fifty years down the line, we'll be able to walk into a comic shop anywhere in the world and possibly find a copy of our proposal. I can't thank you enough for cementing our love in comics/Spider-Man history forever! (Now bring back Ms. Marvel so we can do a gender reveal in the future.) 😝

Sincerely,
Katie G
Queens, NY

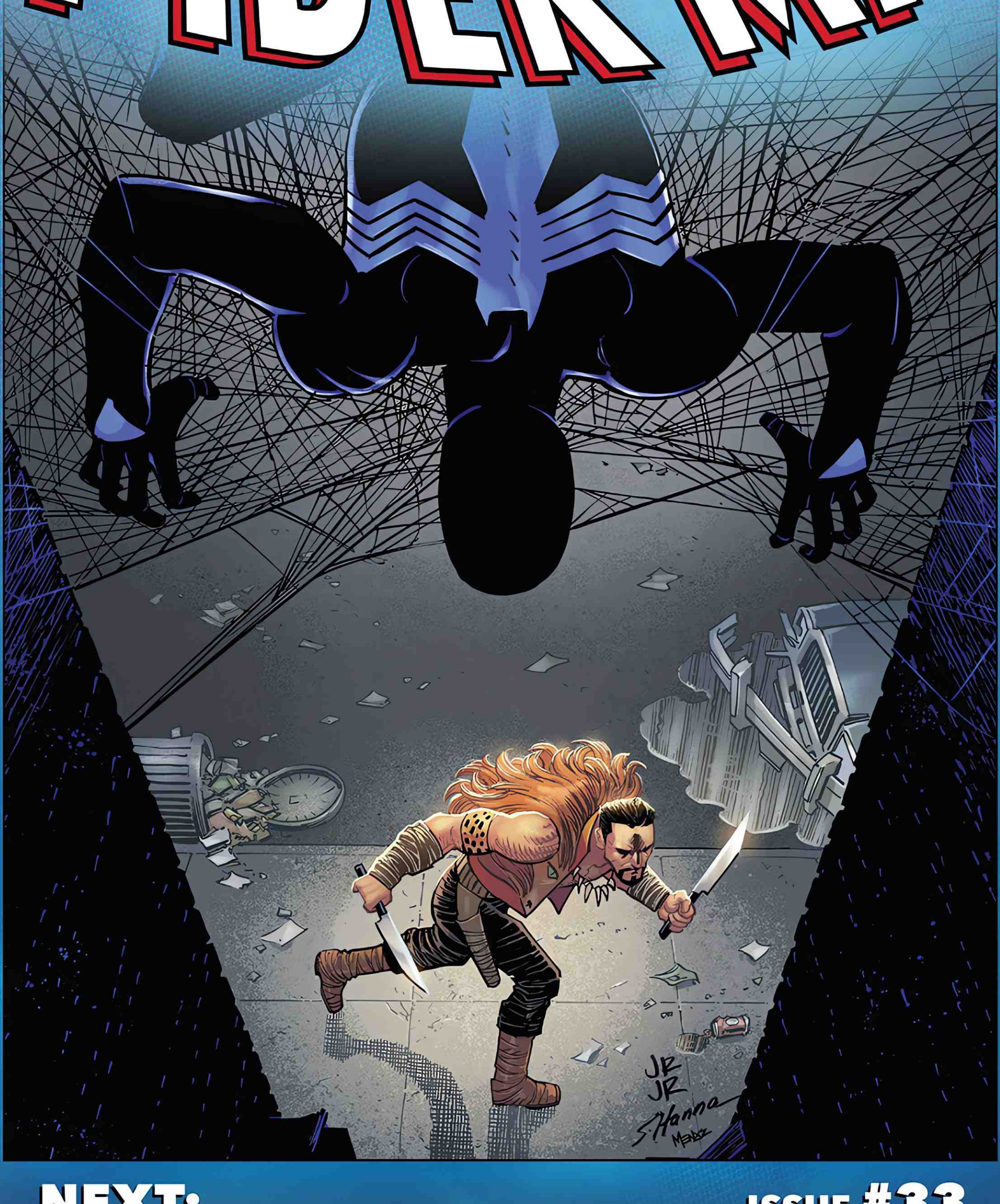


CONGRATULATIONS, KATIE!!! So happy for you and Derek. Thank you for including us and Spider-Man in your love story. We were on pins and needles here, so thanks also for writing in to share the great news. That's all the time we have this month, folks! See you in two weeks for when Peter definitely won't do something he will regret for the rest of his life.

Keep thwippin'!

Nick Lowe
Spider-Editor
NY, NY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



NEXT: **ISSUE #33**

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SEVALITH.
DIMITRI. ENJOY YOUR VACATION?
Eh. IT WAS KINDA BORING.
IT WAS NOT BORING.
SO WHAT'S WITH THE URGENCY AND "PACK YOUR BAGS" AND "NEVER MIND JUST LEAVE THEM"?
I JUST LIKING WATCHING YOU RUN AROUND.
SERIOUSLY?
THE AVATAR OF THE-POWERS-THAT-BE DOES, IN FACT, OCCASIONALLY ENJOY HAMMING YOUR MULE.
SERIOUSLY?
NO.
I GOT THAT ITCHY FEELING IN THE BACK OF MY THROAT. BACK IN THE REAL WORLD, I BELIEVE THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GO SOUTH. AND SOUTH NOT SLOWLY.
SO OFF WE GO?
SO OFF WE *GO.*
G.O.D.S.